

Application No.: 10/762722
Docket No.: FA0790USDIV

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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as set forth below.

The first full paragraph on page 1, lines 7-11:

"This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and §120 from U.S. National Application [[Ser.]] Serial No. 10/226,898 (filed August 23, 2002), ~~which has been allowed;~~ now U.S. Patent No. 6,709,507, and U.S. Provisional Application [[Ser.]] Serial No. 60/314,337 (filed August 23, 2001), which is incorporated by reference herein for all purposes as if fully set forth."

The final partial paragraph on page 2, lines 28-35:

"The process of the present invention stabilizes the surfaces of organic pigment particles that had been previously modified by plasma activated process gas. The process of surface modification generally involves creating sites or functionalities on pigment particle surfaces that render the pigment particles dispersible in solvent or aqueous medium. ~~used in the process of the present invention.~~ Thus, for waterborne pigment dispersions these sites or functionalities typically include hydrophilic functional groups such as nonionic, anionic and cationic".

On page 3, the first full paragraph, lines 11-18:

"The processes for modifying pigment surfaces are known in the art. For example, the commonly assigned US Patent 6,156,114 (DuPont) discloses such a method. Some of the suitable process gases include oxygen, nitrogen, water vapor, hydrogen peroxide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, ozone, carbon monoxide, trimethylsilane, ~~tetraethoxysilane~~ tetraethoxysilane, hexamethyldisiloxane, ethylene diamine, maleic anhydride, arylamine, acetylene, methane, ethylene oxide, hydrogen, styrene, air, sulfur dioxide, sulfonyl precursors, phosphonyl precursors, alcohols, or a mixture thereof."

On the same page, the third full paragraph, lines 25-31:

"Frequently, these methods involve[[.]] deagglomerating the pigment particles prior to their exposure to the plasma activated process gas so that substantially the entire surface of the pigment particle is exposed to the plasma activated process gas. For example, US Patent 6,156,114 (DuPont) describes the use of an ultrasonic deagglomerator for deagglomerating pigment particles before exposing the pigment particles to the plasma activated process."

On the same page, the final full paragraph, lines 32-34:

"Generally, the organic pigment particles are ~~generally~~ deagglomerated before or during surface modification by the plasma activated process gas or ozone."

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The first partial paragraph on page 5, lines 2-5:

“regulator valve 28 and then conveyed into reactor 5 via opening 15 of lance 20. Suitable aqueous medium includes water, preferably deionized or, if desired, water dissolved ~~therein~~ in a suitable miscible solvent, such as alcohol.”